

at least one incentive printer;
a incentive processor bus coupling said incentive processor to said at least one incentive printer;
a point-of-sale (POS) controller;
at least one cash register; and
a POS bus coupling said POS controller, said at least one cash register, and said incentive processor;

wherein a respective cash register of said at least one cash register is configured to receive data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

one of said POS controller and said respective cash register is configured to transmit said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

said incentive processor is configured to generate raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers;

said at least one purchasing incentive comprising an additional incentive to compensate a customer for said item being out of stock;

said incentive processor is configured to transmit said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor bus; and

said respective incentive printer is configured to print a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive and said additional incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

9. (Amended) A process for providing in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, comprising:

storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks via an incentive processor;

coupling said incentive processor to at least one incentive printer via an incentive processor bus;

coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller, at least one cash register, and said incentive processor via a POS bus;

receiving at a respective cash register of said at least one cash register data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

transmitting from one of said POS controller and said respective cash register said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

generating at said incentive processor raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers, said at least one purchasing incentive comprising an additional incentive to compensate a customer for said item being out of stock;

transmitting from said incentive processor said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor bus; and

printing at said respective incentive printer a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive and said additional incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

17. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer storage medium having a computer program embedded in said computer storage medium for causing a computer to provide in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, said computer program performing the steps of:

storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks via an incentive processor;

coupling said incentive processor to at least one incentive printer via an incentive processor bus;

coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller, at least one cash register, and said incentive processor via a POS bus;

receiving at a respective cash register of said at least one cash register data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

transmitting from one of said POS controller and said respective cash register said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

generating at said incentive processor raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers, said at least one purchasing incentive comprising an additional incentive to compensate a customer for said item being out of stock;

transmitting from said incentive processor said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor bus; and

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printing at said respective incentive printer a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive and said additional incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

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25. (Amended) A system for providing in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks;

means for coupling an incentive processing means to at least one incentive printing means;

means for coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller means, at least one cash register means, and said incentive processing means;

means for receiving at a respective cash register means of said at least one cash register means data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

means for transmitting from one of said POS controller means and said respective cash register means said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck to said incentive processing means;

means for generating raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers, said at least one purchasing incentive comprising an additional incentive to compensate a customer for said item being out of stock;

means for transmitting said raincheck information to a respective incentive printing means of said at least one incentive printing means; and

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